



# Ashland High School College Connection Newsletter



Provided by Donnley Fenn and AHS Counseling Office

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## DESIRE FOR SUCCESS / FEAR OF FAILURE

Winston Churchill, the great British statesman, once said, “Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.” This bit of wisdom from a leader who experienced both is worth considering as college applicants receive acceptance or rejection letters. Probably at no previous time in a graduating senior’s life, has the desire for success and the fear of failure been more sharply defined. Churchill’s advice can help clarify the black and white nature of success and failure. Both are ephemeral in the sense that success lasts only until the next challenge and failure, with its hard lessons, can actually be used to discover new strengths and paths. *Courage* is the strength to persevere in the face of difficulty. This pivotal moment can be embraced as an essential means of internally building the kind of determination required to keep succeeding and to keep learning when we fall short of expectations and dreams. It even translates to currently following through on responding to all communications from colleges still in the running. Finalizing financial aid arrangements is particularly critical. Be sure to read the Final College Admissions Checklist on p. 2 and all articles related to financial aid.

### Re-evaluating Aid Offers: Professional Judgment Reviews

(“Wall Street Journal”)

More families are taking action to make sure their financial-aid packages reflect their current financial situation by requesting professional judgment reviews. This process allows families with special circumstances to have their expected contributions (EFC) recalculated based on what they’re making currently — as opposed to the prior year’s household income, which is typically what aid and awards are based on. Schools can now choose to re-evaluate students’ financial-aid packages, typically qualifying them for more aid including federal grants, loans and need-based scholarships. Families who have experienced recent layoffs or salary cuts are good candidates for an adjustment because that qualifies as an individual circumstance. Also, families who took hardship withdrawals from their retirement accounts to cover medical bills might qualify because the withdrawal would normally count as income on their tax returns. Every school has different requirements. Requests for reviews can be made over the phone and in person, but are best done in writing an email, with a follow-up call if no response. All requests require documentation of the special circumstance, such as a pink slip or copies of medical bills. Two things to keep in mind when appealing for aid: 1) Consumer debt, although real, cannot be taken into consideration. So, if you have a high mortgage payment, no home equity, no equity line of credit, or credit card debt, it won’t help your case. 2) In all of your dealings with the financial aid office, be nice. By being nice, you increase the administrator’s motivation to help you.

### How to Deal with College Rejection Letters

Dr. Harold E. Varmus, a Harvard *rejectee* and Nobel laureate for studies of the genetic basis of cancer, advises: “If rejected by the school you love, immerse yourself in life at a college that welcomes you. The differences between colleges that seem so important before you get there will seem a lot less important once you arrive at one that offered you a place.” Remember that NO college is going to be paradise, and that ALL colleges have something truly outstanding to offer you. Also, remember that your choice is not a dead-end street. There are many branches and roundabouts ahead to offer different opportunities that are not yet on the horizon.

### Looking for Cutting-edge College Majors?

The book *They Teach That in College!?* provides information about interesting, lucrative, and cutting-edge college majors available at more than 500 college & universities, unknown to many counselors, educators, and parents. It features profiles of more than 100 college majors, course listings, potential employers, contact information for colleges and universities that offer these programs and interviews with educators in the field. Cost: \$15 w/free shipping. [www.ccpnewsletters.com/they-teach-that-in-college](http://www.ccpnewsletters.com/they-teach-that-in-college).

## Making Sense of Financial Aid Awards

(“Bestcollegefit.com”, 4/7/17)

1. **Identify the total cost of attendance for each institution.** This will include tuition, room and board as well as books, supplies, activity fees, lab fees and possible transportation expenses.
2. **Add all of the grants and scholarships listed on the award letter together.** These funds comprise the “gift” aid you are receiving—money you don’t have to re-pay.
3. **Subtract the total amount of “gift” aid from the total cost of attendance** to determine the total out-of-pocket expense for your family.
4. **A federal student loan and a campus work-study opportunity** are funding sources that will help to address out-of-pocket expenses.
5. **Colleges typically budget financial aid** for students in years two, three and four based on the EFC of the first year. Don’t commit your entire college savings fund to the first-year expenses. If you do, get ready for a heavy dose of loans in your remaining college years.
6. **Colleges practice “preferential packaging”** that choose not to meet the full need of some students in order to attract the most highly qualified applicants.
7. **A grant is awarded because you demonstrate financial “need.”** A scholarship is offered in recognition of merit and will likely carry with it academic and/or performance renewal terms.
8. **If your family’s financial circumstances have changed** since you completed financial aid applications, submit written appeals to the colleges in question along with documentation of the new circumstances.

## Looking Behind the Financial Aid Numbers

\*\*\* For some colleges, the mix of grant or scholarship aid may be more favorable during the freshman year than during subsequent academic years. To tell whether a college practices front-loading of grants, go to: **CollegeNavigator.gov**. Write in the name of your school, then click “Show Results”. Click on the school’s name, then on “Expand All”. Scroll to “Financial Aid”, and compare the percentages receiving “Grant or scholarship aid” for “beginning” students and for all undergraduate students. They should be somewhat even.

\*\*\* Be sure financial aid award letters list the college’s total cost of attendance, including tuition, room and board, plus indirect costs: fees, books and supplies, transportation, and personal/miscellaneous expenses.

\*\*\* Loans do not cut college costs. In fact a loan will increase college costs, because it must be repaid, with interest.

\*\*\* What really matters is the net price: the amount of money the family will have to pay from savings, income and loans to cover the college’s annual costs.

\*\*\* If you receive private scholarships, make sure that your college reduces loans instead of grants.

## Final College Admission Checklist

The following are the final steps that you need to complete to wrap-up your college admission process. Be sure to complete them in April.

By May 1st, I have submitted my deposit, securing my spot in the freshman class, to one of the colleges to which I was offered admission.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have confirmed or received confirmation that my deposit has been received by the college.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have submitted my deposit to only one institution, and have not double deposited, as required by the Statement of Principles of Good Practices by the National Association of College Admissions Counselors (NACAC).

I have declined offers of admission to all of the other schools to which I was admitted, thanking them for their offer and indicating my plans for enrollment elsewhere. For their research, colleges appreciate knowing where you have decided to attend.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have accepted my college’s financial aid award by returning any required forms by the deadline.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have submitted to my high school Counseling Office a decision summary sheet, detailing the list of colleges to which I was admitted, waitlisted, or denied admission.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have submitted all required forms and the deposit for on-campus housing.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have thanked those who helped make this all happen.

## NACAC REPORT:

### Key factors for college acceptance:

(in order of importance):

Overall GPA; Grades in college prep classes; Strength of curriculum; SAT/ACT scores; Strength of the application essay; Counselor recommendations; Likelihood of attendance; Teacher recommendations; Class rank; AP, Subject test scores.

**ATTENTION: FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS!**

**1) What if a Student Just Doesn't Have Time for Extracurricular Activities?**

Among many others schools, the **University of California (UC)** system values an attribute among its applicants called "Leadership in the Home." This type of leadership applies to students who had to work part-time to support their families, or who had to take on adult roles in the family because of an incapacitated family member. Contrary to putting these students at a disadvantage because they take time away from extracurricular activities, the UC system views these responsibilities as the very essence of leadership. Having to pick up a younger sibling every day after school and make sure they do homework, and then having to cook dinner for everyone cultivates sacrifice, responsibility, and commitment. No one can become "a great leader" without these virtues. If a student doesn't have time for many EA's, then they should commit to a one or a few for a prolonged period of time. One of the purposes of requiring EA's is to find evidence that the student has passion and knows what commitment means. Some students, however, have absolutely no time for EA's because they have to take care of family members after school. Even feeding grandma and making sure she takes her medications every day is a form of commitment.

Tips on what makes for a good extracurricular activity:  
<https://www.performance.edu.au/blog/extra-curricular-activities-why-are-they-important-resume>  
<https://www.fastweb.com/student-life/articles/impressive-extracurriculars> [http://www.iop.org/education/teacher/extra\\_resources/stem/page\\_41714.html](http://www.iop.org/education/teacher/extra_resources/stem/page_41714.html)

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-to-start-an-environment-club/>

**2) Free electronic copy of *How to Write an Effective College Application Essay***

Here is a guide intended for moms, dads, grandparents and other adults who would like to know how best to help their students in the essay writing process. Written by Susan Knoppow, CEO of *Wow Writing Workshop*, it provides perspective for parents and counselors. Her advice will help encourage students to think about their best characteristics before fixating on topics and prompts. Once they figure out how to demonstrate those characteristics, they can relax and just write. Even average students can write compelling, effective essays that stand out when they are encouraged to focus on their traits and characteristics because those essays will be genuine. To download the free book, go to: <https://wowwritingworkshop.com/free-parent-book>.

State of College Admission 2017 Report

*(from the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC))*

- The number of applications from first-time freshmen grew by 7 percent from Fall 2015 to Fall 2016.
- The average application-to-admission-officer ratio at all colleges and universities was 854: 1 in 2016 (up sharply from 620: 1 in 2012). The rate was 494:1 at private institutions and 1,472:1 at public universities.
- Twenty percent of colleges reported offering early decision admission in fall 2016. Private colleges (30 percent) were much more likely than public colleges (5 percent) to offer early decision admission.
- Thirty-four percent of colleges reported offering early action admission in fall 2016. Public colleges (26 percent) were less likely than private colleges (39 percent) to offer early action admission.
- Fewer colleges are using wait lists. Thirty-nine percent of colleges reported that they used wait-lists in fall 2016—a 9 percent decrease from 2010. Schools that offer wait lists accepted 23 percent of wait-listed students—down from 31 percent in fall 2011.
- Four-year colleges accepted 66.1 percent of applicants in 2015—up from 63.9 percent in 2012. About 35.1 percent of students who were admitted actually enrolled in that college.
- Eighty percent of four-year, nonprofit colleges charged an application fee in 2016 (down from 88 percent in 2012). Ninety-four percent of public colleges charged application fees, while 74 percent of private schools required application fees. The average application fee to apply to college was \$44.

## How to Accept a Univ. of Calif. Admission Offer

Students can accept an admission offer by agreeing to the provisions/conditions outlined in the offer and submitting their Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) with the SIR deposit to reserve their space at a campus. The SIR deposit is \$250. Some important things to keep in mind about accepting a UC admission offer: **1)** The SIR deposit is applied to the student's first enrollment term tuition; **2)** Students that qualified for the UC application fee waiver will have the SIR deposit deferred until financial aid is disbursed; **3)** The SIR deposit is nonrefundable and non-transferable; **4)** Orientation may be required at some UC campuses. Orientation is valuable to your student for familiarizing themselves with the campus and can be a great opportunity for them to meet new friends! Students should review orientation options early to secure a date that best meets their schedule; **5)** A Statement of Legal Residence (SLR) may be required. The SLR helps determine a student's classification as a resident or non-resident for tuition purposes.

## Try to Visit Your Accepting Colleges during April

*(BestCollegeFit.com)*

Spend a weeknight in a residence hall. Eat in the dining hall and attend a class. Talk with professors from the academic departments that interest you. Look for evidence that they are invested in helping undergraduates achieve their goals. Ask students about the courses they take. What do they like about them? How accessible are their professors? Make an appointment with the financial aid office. Take copies of your financial aid application and your tax returns for reference. Document changes in your family's circumstances. Ask for a projection of your student debt over four years.

## Double Depositing Is Wrong

*(“Ahwahtukee (AZ) Foothill News”, by Bob McDonnell, Arizona College Planners)*

Students who applied to a range of colleges are likely to receive more than one acceptance, and for many, a difficult decision lies ahead. In deciding which school to attend by May 1, for some, “double depositing” may become attractive. Racked by indecision, they postpone the inevitable by sending checks to two colleges — that is, they “double deposit.” But they should remember that double depositing is a violation of their responsibilities as established by the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC). Students need to understand that double-depositing is wrong. Colleges dislike double depositing because the practice creates an enormous amount of uncertainty about the size of their incoming freshman classes. They can't be certain about the number of students who are going to show up for the fall because they can't be certain that each student who has made a deposit will attend. Schools can be left with beds to fill and budget shortfalls that they did not anticipate. In order to prevent double depositing, some colleges actually check enrollment lists at other schools for offenders. A college that discovers a double depositor is within its rights to withdraw that individual's offer of admission. Double depositing also wreaks havoc with waiting lists which prevent deserving students from being admitted to their favorite colleges. Students should do the right thing and make a single choice by May 1.

## Shocker: Humanities Grads Gainfully Employed and Happy

*(“Inside Higher Ed”, by Scott Jaschik, 2/7/18)*

What's the worst college major for your career, according to Forbes? Anthropology and archaeology. Kiplinger's says to stay away from religious studies, music, anthropology and art history. Such warnings are common these days. And liberal arts professors and admissions deans at liberal arts colleges will tell you that plenty of students (and an even larger share of parents) believe them. Many colleges with liberal arts roots are rushing to add preprofessional programs. But a study released in early February by the American Academy of Arts & Sciences — based on data from the U.S. Census and other government sources, plus Gallup polling of workers nationwide — challenges the myth of the underemployed, unhappy humanities graduate. It shows humanities grads to be gainfully employed and holding positions of authority, and finds that only a slightly smaller share of them than of their better-paid counterparts think they have enough money. The median salary for those with a terminal bachelor's degree in the humanities was \$52,000 in 2015, less than the median for all graduates (\$60,000) and much less than those in engineering (\$82,000. However, when it comes to measures of career satisfaction, humanities grads are as satisfied as those who majored in STEM. Almost 87 percent of all workers with a bachelor's degree in the humanities reported they were satisfied with their jobs in 2015, comparable to graduates from almost every other field. The figure was 90 percent for those with a bachelor's degree in the humanities and then an advanced degree (in any field).

## More Details on Appealing for More Financial Aid

(*FASS Times, Financial Aid Supersite*)

If you have reason to negotiate for a more generous student aid package, do it as soon as you receive award letters from all schools. Keep the following suggestions in mind:

1. Provide a reasonable amount. Try to be as specific as possible about what further student aid you need. If you need another \$4,000 a year to make the commitment doable, say so and back it up.

2. Make a better case. Share any change in your financial circumstances. If there has been loss of income, a layoff, change of job, high medical bills or you're now caring for an ailing parent, speak up. The FAFSA doesn't include a space to explain income anomalies. So contact the school to provide specific information not on the FAFSA or that has occurred since forms were filled out.

3. Appeal for more merit money if the student has maintained a very high GPA in challenging courses, has a high SAT score and many activities.

4. Appeal to have the EFC (Expected Family Contribution) recalculated in it seems higher than it should be, based on your income and assets. Lower EFC means greater need.

5. An appeal might be made for matching another school's award if the award offer does not meet the offer made by the other school.

6. Get the student involved. A college will be impressed if the student calls or writes its office instead of the parent.

7. Ask for an increase in the student Perkins Loan if offered one. This is a great subsidized federal loan to find in a financial aid package. The interest rate is fixed at 5% and recipients can borrow up to \$5,500 a year. Interest on this loan doesn't begin accruing for the student until after college graduation.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE MAKING FINAL COLLEGE DECISION

(*"The College Crier," Destination College & Beyond*)

1. What academic advising is available to freshman students? How quickly will I be assigned or able to select my academic advisor? How long can I work with an academic advisor?

3. What are the hours at the student health clinic? Is there 24-hour coverage for urgent or emergent care? Does the student health Center offer counseling services?

4. What is the current roommate policy for freshman students? NOTE: Some colleges are now offering mixed sex housing.

5. What if my roommate situation isn't working out – what does it take to make a change?

6. What is your policy on "usual" dorm room wear and tear? How are costs determined if wear and tear is deemed to be excessive?

7. Are storage facilities available when housing is closed for the term or season? If available, what is the cost?

8. Do student escorts go off campus? If yes, how far off campus?

9. What kinds of food are available to meet different dietary needs? What options are available when the food service is closed?

## COLLEGE NEWS

\*\*\* More than half of the 23 campuses in the **California State University** System will be led by female presidents when Lynnette Zelezny becomes the next president of **Cal State Bakersfield** in June.

\*\*\* **Montana State University** in Bozeman, Montana, is one of only a few colleges and universities in the United States that offers a degree in snow science. [www.montana.edu/earthsciences/programs/snow.html](http://www.montana.edu/earthsciences/programs/snow.html)

\*\*\* **Cornell University** (NY) plans to establish a new private university in Vietnam to open in 2020, to be known as **VinUniversity**. It will include Schools of Business, Hospitality and Real Estate, Engineering and Technology, General Education, Public Health and Health Services, Nursing, and Medicine.

\*\*\* The **University of Texas** System pumped \$12.8 million in endowment proceeds into the *Texas Oil and Gas Institute*, but has now decided to shut down the operation after about three years, making it the latest in a series of institutes started and quickly shuttered by the system's Board of Regents. The executive director received a total of \$7.1 million in compensation for working 28 months

\*\*\* **Harvard University** (MA) will no longer require applicants to submit the essay portion of either the SAT or the ACT. Other top schools that have dropped the essay requirement: **Columbia** and **Cornell Universities** (NY), **the Massachusetts Institute of Technology** and **the University of Pennsylvania**.

\*\*\* **DePauw University** (IN) has promised during its current admissions cycle that any student who does not have an "entry-level professional position" or acceptance to graduate school within six months of graduation, will either be given a full-time entry-level position at **DePauw** for at least six months, or another semester of education tuition-free.

\*\*\* In March the *College Board* announced that those who take the PSAT on Saturdays will no longer be able to take their test booklets with them. Some saw the move as trying to get schools to give the PSAT on Wednesdays.

\*\*\* This fall, **Brown University** (RI) and nonprofit theater *Trinity Repertory Company* are giving full tuition scholarships to all returning and future students in the college's master of fine arts programs in acting and directing.

\*\*\* **Duke University** (NC) will not be allowing first-year students the ability to pick their roommates. This move goes against recent trends — and raises questions about diversity, tolerance and the college experience.

## SCHOLARSHIPS & CONTEST OPPORTUNITIES

**FUNDERA SCHOLARSHIP** A \$2,000 award for the best entry every semester. To apply: Record a 3 minute video responding to the question: "Imagine you've just started up a small business in your hometown. How do you strategically grow your business without spending much money?" Details on how to submit video at: <https://www.fundera.com/resources/fundera-scholarship>.

**Fall Semester Deadline: June 1, 2018.**

**AMERICAN CULINARY FEDERATION SCHOLARSHIP** Offers scholarships to high school seniors who plan to pursue college study at the Culinary Institute of America campuses in NY, CA or TX. <https://www.ciachef.edu/cia-scholarships>. **Deadline: May 1, 2018.** San Antonio TX campus requires separate application on website for El Sueno or Sodexo Scholarships. NY and CA campuses also offer scholarships, but are identified through the admissions process and do not need to apply separately through website.

**ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION** Open to all undergraduates, but 2018-19 college freshmen are urged to also apply. *Forty non-need* \$1,000 - \$5,000 scholarships are offered for students who are committed to pursuing careers in the document management and graphic & media communications marketplace, including computer science/engineering, web design, software development, materials engineer, applications specialist, IT designer, systems analyst, business sales and marketing, project or product development. **Application deadline: May 1, 2018.** All details at: <http://www.edsf.org/scholarships/scholarship-opportunities/apply.html>

**ALICE L. HALTON EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS** High school seniors and college students who are interested in careers on information and records management are eligible to apply for \$1000 (2 yr. Degree) and \$2000 (4 yr. Degree) scholarships. Must write a 300-word essay describing the benefits of good records and information management and how it supports and adds value to an organization. **Postmarked Application Deadline: May 1, 2018.** <http://www.alhef.org/scholarship>

**MARINE TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP** For Graduating High School Seniors who have been accepted to either a 2-year or 4-year academic program. Scholarships are for MTS student members only. You may purchase a membership online for \$25. Requires a 500 word essay on your interest in Marine Technology and how you plan to apply your degree. Requires 2 recommendations. <https://www.mtsociety.org/education/scholarships.aspx>. **Deadline: April 18, 2018.**

**AMERICAN HOTEL & LODGING EDUC. FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP** Available to incoming freshmen majoring in Hospitality in a postsecondary hospitality-related educational program. Scholarships range from \$500 to \$7,500. Applicants are chosen based on a combination of academic performance, financial need, hospitality-related work performance, personal attributes, and extracurricular activities. Requires a maximum 500-word essay about background and personal goals. **Deadline: April 15, 2018.** [www.ahlef.org/Scholarships/AcademicScholarships](http://www.ahlef.org/Scholarships/AcademicScholarships)

**SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIPS** The society offers scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$15,000 available to incoming freshmen. Specific scholarships are available only to incoming freshmen majoring in engineering, technology or computer science in a college or university with an ABET accredited program (list available on website). **Postmarked Application Deadline: May 1, 2018.** <http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/swe-scholarships>

**BROWER YOUTH AWARDS** Open to high school students who have demonstrated outstanding environmental leadership in the areas of conservation, preservation and restoration and played a major leadership role in an environmental project. Six winners receive a \$3,000 cash prize. Qualifying activities may include campus organizing, habitat restoration or clean-up of toxic waste. **Application Deadline: May 20, 2018.** Application procedures at: <http://www.broweryouthawards.org/apply>.

## SCHOLARSHIPS & CONTESTS

### SCHOLARSHIPPOINTS FREE SCHOLARSHIPS

Requires no paper application or essay. Students earn points that allow them to apply for scholarships, by applying for other scholarships, taking surveys, tweeting about college-related topics, and performing other tasks. The next \$10,000 drawing is **June 15, 2018**.

[www.scholarshippoints.com](http://www.scholarshippoints.com)

**2018 BigSun SCHOLARSHIP** Seniors who are student athletes are eligible to win a varying number of \$500 awards. Must email a short essay (500-1,000 words) on “How did your participation in sports during your high school years influence you? Has your participation influenced your career goals? Has your participation influenced how you relate to your family?” **Deadline: June 19, 2018**  
Website: <http://www.bigsunathletics.com>

**JAMES BEARD FOUNDATION GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP—CULINARY** Applicants must be high school seniors or graduates who plan to enroll or who are already enrolled at least part-time in a course of study leading to an associate or baccalaureate degree at a licensed or accredited culinary school. Renewable awards range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. **Postmark Deadline: May 15, 2018**. <https://www.jamesbeard.org/scholarships>

## Useful Websites

<https://www.cicmoney101.org/Calculators/Budget-Worksheets/Traditional-College-Student.aspx>

Use this *budgeting worksheet* to become familiar with the financial labyrinth which awaits you. Start talking finances with your parent(s) and begin to prepare yourself for the complicated task to budgeting for your first year of college.

<http://www.collegeconfidential.com/double-major-right-choice>

– If you are wondering about the pros and cons of a double major in college? Here are excellent questions to consider. Why would someone want a dual major? What are the drawbacks? Is it right for you?

**www.mynextmove.org** - Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor and developed by the National Center for O\*NET Development, will help you *match your interests* (e.g., writing, helping people, building things, etc.) *to a career*. Just type in your interests to generate a list of careers that are a good match. Each career entry lists required education, skills, abilities, and personality type, as well as information on earnings and the employment outlook. You can also use the O\*NET Interest Profiler, an assessment tool that asks you a series of questions about your skills, hobbies, and personality to help you find good career matches.

## COLLEGE NEWS

\*\*\* **U Wisconsin Stevens Point** plans to cut 13 majors, including English, history, political science, languages and sociology, and expand more job-oriented programs.

\*\*\* Daniel Handler, the children’s author known as *Lemony Snicket*, will no longer speak at **Wesleyan University** (CT) commencement, amid furor over his comments about women. Anita Hill will speak instead.

\*\*\* Although **Tufts University** (MA) still requires either the SAT or the ACT, they will not require SAT Subject Tests, the SAT or ACT Essays, and state that “sending them will not increase a student’s likelihood of admission.”

\*\*\* According to new data from the *Modern Language Association*, from 2009 to 2016 college foreign language enrollments are off more than 15%, with Italian dropping by 32%. Only Korean increased (59%).

\*\*\* Leading the pack of most alumni among Academy Award nominees was **New York University**, with six. Six other institutions had three nominees each: **Emerson (MA), Harvard, Yale, and the Universities of Michigan, Oregon and Southern California**.

\*\*\* In March the leaders of 49 wealthy universities & colleges sent a letter to congressional leaders urging them to repeal or amend the so-called 1.4% endowment tax on investment income enacted as part of last year’s Republican tax overhaul.

\*\*\* There is growing evidence that in college female students are academically outperforming their male counterparts, after also having done so in high school. However, a new **Ohio State University** study has shown that employers value competence and commitment in considering male applicants, but when evaluating female applicants, they focus on “perceived likeability” over academic achievement.

## Career Paths for STEM Majors

Here is a highly recommended, newly published, 32-page pdf online guide featuring options for STEM majors: “Careers in Applied Mathematics: Options for STEM Majors”. It includes more than 25 profiles of a diverse group of young people who are pursuing careers in mathematics and computational science. Some of the interesting careers covered include software engineer, actuarial consultant, cryptography researcher, data scientist, product development engineer, software developer, derivatives trader, and mathematician. The guide also lists the types of problems that a mathematics and computational scientist might work on. Available free at: [www.siam.org/careers/thinking/pdf/brochure.pdf](http://www.siam.org/careers/thinking/pdf/brochure.pdf).

## High Anxiety Time

*(By Peter Van Buskirk, 2/24/18)*

If you are a college applicant waiting out the “Regular” admission process and the awarding of financial aid, the month of April can be high anxiety time. Although momentarily welcome, the silence of March, following the hectic admissions process might have become more deafening by the day. As decisions arrive, it helps to understand what has been going on as admission decisions were finalized. Application readers had first reviewed your credentials, starting with your transcript, noting both the strength of your academic program and your academic successes relative to other students in your school. If you were established as a viable candidate, readers then began to dig more deeply into your application. Driven by the “What do we get?” question, they looked at extracurricular activities, test results and essays for “hooks” or points of distinction. They probed for authenticity and sincerity of purpose in all your application materials. Readers quickly scanned letters of recommendation to look for evidence that supports the information on your application. Sometimes these letters provided an added dimension of understanding regarding your performance that can be very powerful. As the selection process moved into March, the focus turned to the students who remain on the “bubble” or the margin of the competition. Questions such as “What is the likelihood that she will enroll if we take her?” and “How are his third marking period grades?” and “Are we sure we will get a good return on our investment if we give him that much financial aid?” Those in the middle continued to get lots of attention as the process wound down. Special talents, legacy connections, leadership and diverse perspectives also became hooks that could make all the difference in a tight competition. Most recently, March became the time that “likelihood of enrollment” was calibrated for each student and fine points were considered. Further arguments were heard from special interest groups about special cases, grades were checked—again—and adjustments were made based on yield (on offers of admission) forecasts to make sure the group of admitted students would generate the needed enrollment—and revenue—to balance the budget in the coming year. During March to April 1, letters have been mailed and decisions posted on institutional websites. If you focused on “fit” and were able to prove your value to the schools where you applied, happy outcomes should follow.

### THE COLLEGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

FUTURE FOCUS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

145 Brooks Lane  
Ashland, OR 97520

FOR SUBSCRIPTION INFO, CONTACT NEWSLETTER STAFF:

[futurefocus@jeffnet.org](mailto:futurefocus@jeffnet.org)